

Dear Chairman Powell and Commissioners,

As a citizen who wants to be informed about the political and electoral issues that affect my life, I am greatly disappointed by the lack of informative television programming. I am also tired of misinformation being broadcast in the form of "campaign strategy".

I am disgusted with the way politicians conduct negative, smearing campaigns using misinformation, out-of-context quotes, and carefully edited quotes. A lie is a lie is a lie, whether through omission or through misuse of context. If voting were not such an important civic duty, I'd stay home from the polls.

Broadcasters have clearly failed in their obligation to serve the public interest. Politicians have clearly failed in THEIR obligation to present themselves and their opponents accurately, in the best interests of all Americans,

The FCC should define meaningful public interest requirements that include local civic and electoral affairs programming. At a minimum, broadcasters should air three hours per week of local civic and electoral affairs programming, with at least two hours devoted to substantive, non-partisan and factual election coverage in the six weeks prior to Election Day. In addition, the FCC should regulate political advertisements by insisting that content be accurate and factual. Stations should be required to give all parties, no matter how small, equal time.

As the elections approach, a well-functioning democracy demands that citizens have access to a diversity of opinions and voices on the choices confronting us. A true democracy where the will of the people is actually decisive requires that people be given accurate and factual information from which to make their choices. This certainly does not describe the current situation.

Sincerely,  
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